

M I D D L E E A S T A N D S O U T H A S I A R E V I E W

13 JANUARY 1983

Lebanon

Lebanese-Israeli-U.S. Talks -- The Israeli steering committee for the negotiations has decided that Israel will ask for certain changes in the latest U.S. proposal on the agenda issue, Jerusalem radio reported. However, a Lebanese source cited by Beirut radio declared that if Israel does not accept the U.S. proposal as amended by Lebanon, the Lebanese delegation to the forthcoming talks at Qiryat Shemona will return immediately to Beirut. If Israel accepts the proposal, Lebanon will demand that priority be given to the withdrawal issue, the source added. According to a report by IDF Radio, Israeli Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon stated that Israel will eventually achieve all the agreements it is seeking with Lebanon and that it is not standing with stopwatch in hand.

Security Situation -- Druze and Christian militia exchanged artillery fire in several Ash-Shuf mountain villages south of 'Alayh, according to reports by the clandestine radios Free Lebanon and Voice of Arab Lebanon.

At the end of his visit to Tripoli, Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan disclosed that the internal security forces have reinforced their presence in the city, Beirut radio reported. The security forces deployed in several areas that were involved in the clashes and the pro-Syrian Arab Democratic Party militia announced that they will withdraw their gunmen and weapons starting 13 January, according to other reports by the radio.

Israeli-U.S. Relations

The date of Prime Minister Menahem Begin's visit to the United States will be set according to needs and not rumors or gossip, the prime minister's adviser Uri Porat announced in an interview with Jerusalem radio. He dismissed "ridiculous reports" about the date of the visit, asserting that they "were intended only to create a false atmosphere of hysteria about this matter." Porat's remarks came in response to a question concerning reports that the U.S. Administration has made Begin's visit conditional on progress in the negotiations with Lebanon as well as several other factors.

Syria

What the "enemies and defeatists" are calling for is not peace but capitulation to Zionist ambitions. President Hafiz al-Asad declared in a speech reported by Damascus radio. He warned against "hostile schemes" which aim at deluding the Arabs into believing that Israel is unbeatable.

PLO Affairs

'Arafat in Moscow -- PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, CPSU General Secretary Yuriy Andropov, and their respective delegations met in the Kremlin for a "detailed" discussion of Middle East issues, TASS reported. Both sides stressed their determination to strive for a just and comprehensive Middle East peace and noted the importance of Arab unity, TASS added. The two leaders are expected to exchange views on the Fes summit peace plan, according to Algiers Voice of Palestine radio. Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko hosted a dinner for the PLO delegation in the evening, another TASS report noted.

PNC Meeting -- PLO official spokesman 'Abd al-Muhsin abu Mayzar stated that the PLO Executive Committee will hold a meeting chaired by Yasir 'Arafat in Damascus on 16 January to prepare for the PNC session scheduled next month in Algeria, Radio Monte Carlo reported. Yasir 'Arafat announced that the PNC session will discuss the military situation and the latest developments in Lebanon, the work of the Fes summit committee, and the organization of future activities, Algiers Voice of Palestine radio reported citing an 'Arafat interview with AFRIQUE-ASIE magazine.

Arab-UK Relations

Britain and the Arab countries have reached a compromise solution regarding the PLO's representation on the Fes summit committee which stipulates that Britain will officially welcome the entire committee if the PLO selects a representative who is neither a member of the PLO Executive Committee nor a leader of a Palestinian organization, the Ash-Shariqah daily AL-KHALIJ reported citing an "informed" Arab diplomat. However, consultations are continuing amid conflicting British statements over whether the Arab delegation would actually be welcomed, Riyadh radio noted. The radio accused Britain of formulating a "policy of procrastination" in an effort to absorb Arab indignation and warned that such a stand only increases the difficulties of finding a solution. The British Government has acted improperly and is undermining "any sign of hope" that a compromise will be reached, KUNA declared. A PLO official told KUNA that intensive Arab contacts in the past few days have resulted in a firmer Arab stand toward Britain.

Egypt

Soviet Economic Delegation -- A Soviet economic delegation will arrive in Cairo "in a few days" to meet with Egyptian economists and discuss increasing economic cooperation in the private and public sectors, reported the Kuwaiti paper AL-ANBA'.

FBIS

DAILY REPORT

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PRIME MINISTER MEETS WITH IRAQI OIL MINISTER

BK121632 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 Jan 83

[Text] Visiting Oil Minister of Iraq Qasim Taqi called on Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi in New Delhi today and conveyed to her President Saddam Husayn's message that Iraq looks up to India to provide leadership to the Nonaligned Movement. Taqi said Iraq is glad that the seventh nonaligned summit is being held in New Delhi. He also apprised Mrs Gandhi of the latest situation along the Iran-Iraq borders. Both Mrs Gandhi and Taqi expressed satisfaction over the development of constructive cooperation between the two countries.

Earlier, Taqi led his country's delegation at the eighth session of the Indo-Iraq joint commission held in the capital this morning. He told Energy Minister Shiv Shankar, who led the Indian delegation, that a fair and just solution will soon be found regarding financial claims of the Indian construction companies operating in Iraq. About 60 Indian companies are involved in the execution of about 90 projects in that country.

Earlier, the Iraqi minister called on President Giani Zail Singh.

GANDHI COMMENTS ON RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN

BK130957 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 13 Jan 83

[Text] The prime minister has said India is doing its best to promote friendly relations with Pakistan. Mrs Gandhi described Pakistan's acceptance of India's proposal for the establishment of a joint commission as a positive step. She pointed out that there has been a modest improvement in the bilateral relations during the last few months. The prime minister made these observations in reply to a letter from Pakistan's roaming ambassador, A.K. Brohi. Brohi was in Delhi last month in connection with the international Koran congress.

OFFICIAL SET TO VISIT PAKISTAN, IRAN, DRA

BK121617 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 Jan 83

[Text] Natwar Singh, secretary in the External Affairs Ministry, will be leaving for Islamabad on Monday to hold talks with Pakistani officials on bilateral issues. The subjects for discussion include the constitution of subcommissions to assist the Indo-Pak joint commission. He will also visit Karachi before returning home. This was disclosed by an official spokesman in New Delhi today.

Natwar Singh, who is also the secretary general designate of the seventh nonaligned summit to be held in March in New Delhi, will be visiting Iran and Afghanistan in the last week of this month for consultations on the draft for the summit.

BRIEFS

ENVOY TO YUGOSLAVIA -- J. Hiremath, additional secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, is to be India's next ambassador to Yugoslavia. He will take over shortly. [Text] [Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 7 Jan 83 BK]

SOVIET PEACE DELEGATION -- A six-member Soviet Peace Committee delegation arrived in New Delhi on 10 January on a 10-day visit. The delegation is led by the prominent actress Alida-Viya Artmane who is the deputy chairman of the Soviet Peace Committee. This is her first visit to India. [Text] [Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 10 Jan 83 BK]

SPOKESMAN DENIES AFGHAN REPORT ON SPY ARREST

BK131050 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 13 Jan 83

[Text] An official spokesman in Islamabad today described as a total falsehood a Kabul radio broadcast of Tuesday alleging that a Pakistani spy has been arrested in the Nangarhar Province of Afghanistan.

He recalled a similar Afghan accusation in September last and said that such fabricated stories could not disprove the fact that a widespread and heroic resistance of the Afghan people is entirely indigenous in character. The spokesman repeated Pakistan's strict adherence to its policy of noninterference in the internal affairs of neighboring countries.

In Afghanistan itself, the system of education is being converted into the communist system and the Afghan teachers in the colleges and the universities are being replaced by Russians. This was stated by a group of students belonging to the law and economic faculty and the mathematics institute who had crossed over into Pakistan. They said that Kabul University had been converted into an intelligence center and all option to higher classes depended on the loyalty to the Babrak Karmal regime.

THE MUSLIM CRITICIZES U.S. UNIFIED FORCE

GF130920 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 4 Jan 83 p 4

[Editorial: "CMC: Codeword for Intervention"]

[Text] The Rapid Deployment Force, now re-anointed and given the new nomenclature of the "United States Central Military Command," (CMC) became operative on Saturday. Comprising 250,000 troops drawn from the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines, this military octopus of America will, according to BBC, spread its tentacles in at least 20 countries of Africa, the Gulf and the Middle East, ranging from Morocco to Pakistan.

The previous designation of RDF may have been dropped as unpropitious in view of its debacle in the Tabas desert in Iran to which it was despatched in 1979 by the Carter regime with the utmost secrecy and "foolproof" precautions to rescue the American hostages held in Tehran. Now, it is said the Central Military Command will be deployed to defend American interests in the area and to gain access to Middle East oil. That is not all: It is also said to be the product of America's "altruistic" impulse to protect its "allies" on the southern borders of the Soviet Union.

Who are the "allies" for whom Washington is at pains to show such unsolicited concern is a question that naturally arises. Except for Turkey, which is still a NATO partner, no other country on the southern periphery of the Soviet Union can in any manner be termed as an ally of the U.S. far as Pakistan -- a non-aligned country -- is concerned, President Zia is on record having said in answer to a question about the RDF during his recent visit to America: "We see no scope for the use of RDF in and around Pakistan", which clearly implies that, if the crunch were ever to come, this country will fight its own battle. Washington may have its own global strategy, but it should be made to refrain from using that strategy as a drag-net to involve others in the mechanics of its pursuit. The sinister design behind the raising of the Central Military Command, as spelt out by the Pentagon, will have to be forcefully resisted by the countries sought to be circumscribed by it, for any country showing quiescence would inevitably be sucked into the eye of the storm brewing between the two superpowers.

Of the other countries on the southern border of the Soviet Union, India faces no threat from Moscow. Afghanistan is already in the loving embrace of Moscow. Washington ought to be fully aware of Iran's sentiment about the U.S. That leaves only Pakistan whose bitter experience of betrayal in the past had made it renounce both CENTO and SEATO and see the wisdom of joining the ranks of non-aligned countries. Islamabad's immediate imperative is to mend its fences with New Delhi and develop friendly and cordial relations with that immediate neighbour.

According to the ECONOMIST (London), the fighter-bombers of the RDF, now upgraded by the U.S. into a unified command, would need the exclusive use of eight or nine air bases in Saudi Arabia and other countries contiguous [as published] to the Gulf. Egypt, Morocco, Kenya, Oman and Somalia, which are under no treaty obligations with the U.S., are known to have offered such facilities to Washington. When the command comes to be firmly positioned, the U.S. would not shrink from using it, whenever the Pentagon sees the need to do so. And in such an eventuality the states in the region are bound to come under American pressure to concede facilities and to grant right of passage for its troops.

Islamabad has throughout been of the firm view that the defence of the Gulf was the exclusive responsibility of its littoral states. We cannot make a departure from that view. The protection of the sea-lanes through which consignments of oil are carried to different parts of the world cannot be left to any distant power, no matter what its military potential. It should be remembered that successive governments in Washington have been casting their avid glances on the rich deposits of the 'black gold' in the Gulf region. Nor can Washington's almost parental love for the delinquent and expansionist State of Israel be overlooked in the policy formulations of countries in the "crescent of crisis." Pakistan will therefore have to keep all these factors in view, and exercise its influence on its Arab friends and help them understand and evaluate the situation taking shape with the appearance of the united military command on their horizon.

BRIEFS

ADB LOAN -- The Asian Development Bank is to provide a loan of \$40 million to the Industrial Development Bank of Pakistan [IDBP]. The loan will help the IDBP to finance specific development projects in the manufacturing sector to be undertaken by private enterprises. [Text] [Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 12 Jan 83 BK]

SOVIET CULTURAL TROUPE -- A 16-member Soviet cultural troupe arrived in Karachi from Tashkent on 8 January. The troupe also will visit Lahore, Islamabad, and Faysalabad. [Text] [Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 8 Jan 83 BK]

BANGLADESHAGREEMENT REACHED WITH INDIA ON BORDER ISSUES

BK130231 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0145 GMT 13 Jan 83

[Text] The 2-day India-Bangladesh border conference at Dinajpur has agreed to check smuggling, border crimes, and illegal entry of people and take some specific measures in this regard. The deputy commissioner of Bangladesh, who led the Bangladesh team at the conference, said the identification of the missing and damaged pillars on the border was finalized. It was agreed to reconstruct and repair the pillars shortly.

NEPALTALKS ON COOPERATION WITH BANGLADESH BEGIN

BK121541 Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 12 Jan 83

[Text] Officials of Nepal and Bangladesh began talks in Katmandu today on economic and technical cooperation between the two countries. A groundwork is expected to be prepared out of the discussions for the ministerial level talks starting in Katmandu on Friday in connection with the fourth meeting of Nepal-Bangladesh joint economic commission. Talks at the official level will continue tomorrow also.

Meanwhile, Finance Minister Dr Yadav Prashad Pant and Bangladesh Minister for Finance and Planning A.M. Muhith today discussed the agenda for the fourth meeting of the joint economic commission. Muhith had arrived in Katmandu from Dhaka this morning to lead an eight-member delegation to the meeting of the 5-year old commission.

SRI LANKASOUTH ASIAN OFFICIALS MEET ON REGIONAL AID

BK121109 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 12 Jan 83

[Text] Senior officials of seven South Asian countries have been in session in Colombo to draw up an integrated program of action for regional cooperation. Such a program may eventually go before foreign ministers of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, and the Maldives who will give political direction to the concept of South Asian cooperation when they meet between May and September this year.

At its current session until Thursday, the seven-nation committee will deliberate on the planned program for regional cooperation. The committee under the chairmanship of Sri Lanka was set up by the foreign secretaries of South Asia forum at their third meeting in Islamabad last August. The foreign secretaries are to meet again in Dhaka next month in preparation for the proposed ministerial conference.

OPPOSITION PARTIES DEMAND GENERAL ELECTION

BK121157 Colombo SUN in English 7 Jan 83 p 1

[Text] Eight opposition parties led by the Sri Lanka Freedom Party have jointly demanded a general election this year, on the ground that 62 percent of the registered voters have not approved the government's proposal to extend the tenure of Parliament at the referendum held last month.

In a communique released on Wednesday the group states that "if the United National Party goes ahead with its proposal to extend the present Parliament elected in 1977 beyond its due date, it will be ruling without the approval and consent of the majority of the registered voters."

The statement accuses the government of abusing its powers and intimidation to secure endorsement for the proposal. It states "the government and the UNP made a mockery of the referendum laws. Despite the orders of the commissioner of elections and the IGP [inspector general of police] subordinate police officers of all ranks were unable to remove illegal displays of the 'lamp' symbol out of fear of punishment of discriminatory treatment by such means which were proliferated as the campaign progressed. The government sought to add physical intimidation of the voters, to whom it was made clear that no protection from the law or the police could be expected if they showed any open opposition to the government's proposal."

FREEDOM PARTY FACTIONALISM RAISED IN PARLIAMENT

BK081158 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 8 Jan 83

[Text] The [words indistinct] Maithripala Senanayake has made a strong plea in Parliament for recognition of the faction of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party [SLFP] led by him as the only true and only legitimate SLFP. He made the claim in the process of the statement he made on the floor of the house when Parliament met yesterday. He also traced the history of events within the party since its electoral defeat in 1977 and the reasons why the party found itself in a tragically splintered condition today.

In support of his claim, Senanayake cited the conclusions arrived at by a select committee of the Parliament which had examined a large number of people before it prepared its report. He referred to the decision of the commissioner of elections to award the SLFP's traditional elections symbol to the group led by Mrs Bandaranaike and said that this had been done with no reasons being advanced for the decision. He said his party was taken aback at that decision which, he said, was contrary to the conclusions of the parliamentary select committee. He observed that Parliament was the country's supreme body and that its ruling could not be lightly disregarded or challenged. The election commissioner's decision, however, was accepted as his group considered it provided a new (? means) for ending the dispute in the party.

Maithripala Senanayake claimed that the facts as he presented them entitled the faction of the party he led to be treated as a recognized political party and to be allotted the symbol traditionally used by the party.

BRIEFS

EXCHANGE PROGRAM WITH USSR -- A three-year agreement for the exchange of radio and television programmes between the USSR and Sri Lanka was signed in Colombo on Friday. State Minister Anandatissa de Alwis signed on behalf of Sri Lanka, while the Soviet Ambassador Barie E. Kunasovsky signed on behalf of the USSR. The agreement involves the exchange of radio and television programmes on education, culture, social and economic affairs, science and sports as well as coverage of all topical events. The agreement also covers the exchange of technical and administrative assistance on a non-commercial basis according to a press release issued by the Ministry of State. [Colombo SUN in English 3 Jan 83 p 6 BK]

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE NO 1,181

LD121722 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Jan 83

[Communique No 1,181 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. During the past 24 hours, fighting and an exchange of fire continued sporadically on the western fronts. Thanks to effective fire by Islam's combatants, one enemy arms dump and three vehicles of the Iraqi forces were destroyed and Saddam's forces suffered casualties.

At 0720 on 9 January, a number of Islamic combatants infiltrated into the defensive positions of the Iraqi forces in the Shur-e Shirin region and succeeded in killing a number of enemy servicemen and in setting ablaze and destroying six weapons emplacements and observation posts.

On the Marivan front, an exchange of fire continues and Islam's combatants, by opening fire on enemy positions in several points within Iraqi territory, checked the activities of Iraqi forces and inflicted damage and losses on their equipment and men.

In the (Sharhani) region, an arms dump and one truck of the Saddamist forces became the targets of our fire and were destroyed.

On other operational fronts in the southern regions of the country, exchanges of fire continued and Islam's combatants are still engaged in defending and strengthening their positions.

Thanks to fire by our forces on enemy positions on the opposite bank of the Arvand Rud, enemy fire was halted and several machinegun and missile sites and one observation post of the Iraqi forces were destroyed. A number of their servicemen were killed.

As a result of heavy weapons fire by the Iraqi Ba'thist mercenaries, four houses in Abadan were destroyed yesterday.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

BUSHEHR COMMANDER ON NEW GUARDS-NAVY BASE

GF112018 Bushehr Domestic Service in Persian 1430 GMT 11 Jan 83

[Bushehr Islamic Revolution Guard Corps Commander Mohammadi interview with the Central News Unit -- date, place not given -- recorded]

[Excerpts] [Question] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Dear listeners, we are talking to Brother Mohammadi, commander of the Bushehr Islamic Revolution Guards Corps. Brother Mohammadi, please tell us about the results of the seminar of Guards Corps commanders held in Tehran.

[Answer] As is customary, a meeting of guards commanders is held every few months to review important national and international issues. The latest seminar was in this connection.

The major issue of the seminar was the important recent message by the imam of the nation, which we discussed in detail, since the Guards Corps considers itself a 100 percent supporter of clerical rule and thus considers it its members' duty to carry out all his orders in full detail. The discussion in this respect was complete and orders were issued for its implementation.

Another issue was the war; we reviewed various matters related to it. New decisions were made and, God willing, the [word indistinct] nation of ours will soon see their results.

Another issue was (?supply and recruitment) and the combat abilities of the popular forces -- more recruiting, God willing, for the formation of the 20-million-strong army and preparation for the export of the revolution and the establishment of an international Islamic government.

Also I must not forget, during the seminar, the new Supreme Council of Guards, who had been selected following the approval of the Guards' charter and had been introduced to and approved by the imam of the nation, was introduced to the seminar.

[Question] The joint guards and Navy base has been formed. What are the roles and duties of the guards at this base?

[Answer] Since the victory of the revolution, to date, we have realized completely the benefits of unity and the disadvantages of disunity. During the early stage of the war, we witnessed a stagnation in our fronts due to the disunity and bickering Bani-Sadr and his cronies had created among our armed forces, which had spilled over to society and the people. This allowed the victory of the enemy in all aspects against our forces.

Fortunately, following the crushing message of the imam and all-out popular support, Bani-Sadr and his cronies escaped in the laughable manner with which our nation is familiar. After this, the unity among our forces and the people began to grow and the result of this is the formation of the joint army and guards bases in the war fronts. The results of this have been noticed by all in the extensive operations which have been carried out and, thank the Lord, have always been successful.

Since the basis of our philosophy, our revolution, is unity, we have to try to establish this unity in all forms and aspects. It is in this respect that it was decided to form a joint base with the brother naval personnel. This base is called Nuh al-Nabi, God bless him and all his scion, and is located in Bushehr. This decision has several aspects. One is that our brother guards can enjoy the expertise and valuable experience of our brother Navy personnel to its fullest.

It also establishes a direct line of communication between the popular forces and the Navy, which can be very effective in the war, especially since our seas are of prime importance to the superpowers from the strategic, economic, and political points of view. In fact, in every aspect and because of this, they are not prepared to let it go easily. Therefore, a very powerful fighting force should be present there in order to crush any plot in this area. The best force is the popular forces which, God willing, can use this base as a staging point to launch naval operations and to confront the plots of the enemies of Islam and the Islamic revolution.

KHUZESTAN OFFICIAL ON JERUSALEM RESERVE FORCE

GF111708 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1230 GMT 11 Jan 83

[Text] Following the invitation of the Ground Forces of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the martyr-nurturing and sacrificing people to join the forces of Islam to fight the enemies who have committed aggression against the Islamic homeland, Hojjat ol-Eslam Rabraninezhad, political-ideological official of [word indistinct] in the south, in an exclusive interview with the Central News Unit correspondent in Ahvaz, in answering a question about the extent of support for the Jerusalem Reserve Force said: The support of the martyr-nurturing nation in the Province of Khuzestan (?has been heart warming). Zealous Muslim youths have turned up at registration departments, thus showing their readiness to pay their debts to Islam. To date, 10 battalions have been formed due to the eagerness of the volunteers. They have already gone through the various aspects of their training and are completely ready to oppose the Ba'thist-Zionist Iraqi regime and (?defend the Islamic) homeland.

In answer to a question on the source of arms for these battalions, considering the economic embargo, he said: All the arms are those that have been captured from the aggressive Ba'thist army, including their tanks which have been repaired as a result of the extensive efforts of brothers, and they will be used again in crushing the [words indistinct] aggressors.

SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER 'SECRETLY' VISITS TEHRAN

GF111834 (Clandestine) Voice of Iran in Persian 1805 GMT 10 Jan 83

[Text] 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Syrian foreign minister, arrived secretly in Tehran and met the Mullah 'Ali Musavi-Khamene'i, the president, and 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the mullahs' foreign minister, and held talks with them.

An informed source who we cannot name for security reasons emphatically told the Voice of Iran correspondent that 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam arrived in Tehran (?last month) for a 24-hour visit to Iran. During this visit, which was of an urgent and confidential nature, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam met Khamene'i and Velayati and held (?an hour-long) discussion with the latter.

The same informed source told our correspondent that 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam came in a Syrian military plane and was accompanied by (?two officers). No details have been received as to the nature of the discussions between Khaddam and Mullahs Khamene'i and Velayati. However, informed sources say that the talks were focused on the changes in (?the situation) in Khomeyni's war with Iraq.

The abovementioned source told the Voice of Iran correspondent that 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam's clandestine visit to Iran was (?in wake of) the Islamic Republic regime's threat of a large-scale offensive against Iraq [words indistinct]. This attack which was to be in retaliation for the missile attacks by Iraq has been postponed for unknown reasons, but political observers are of the opinion that the Syrian regime has convinced the mullahs to refrain from attacks from within Iranian territory.

The Voice of Iran political correspondent states that at the beginning of last summer, the Syrian Government informed the Iranian Government that in the event of Iranian attacks on Iraqi soil, Syria would revise its relationship with the Khomeyni regime. The person who made this statement is the same Syrian under secretary of information who accompanied 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam on his clandestine visit to Iran 2 weeks ago.

The Voice of Iran political correspondent adds: Thanks to the Khomeyni regime, Iran has reached the stage where it has to take orders from 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Hafiz al-Asad, and their ilk. Now these persons wield responsibility for the dictatorial regime which has proved impotent in the face on increasing internal opposition.

JAPANESE URGED TO RESUME PLANT CONSTRUCTION

LD111112 Tehran IRNA in English 0930 GMT 11 Jan 83

[Text] Tokyo, Jan 11, IRNA--The Islamic Republic of Iran has informed her Japanese partners in the construction of a petrochemical plant in Imam Khomeyni Port in southern Iran that they have time until Thursday to decide on resuming construction of the plant or else Iran would find other means to complete the plant.

Ahmad Ahmadi, the director of the Iran-Japan petrochemical project, said here today that the decision had been conveyed to all Japanese companies involved in the project adding that "this is our last word (to the Japanese)."

Nevertheless, Ahmadi said he was generally optimistic about the outcome of today's meeting between the Japanese partners and the visiting Iranian delegation and expressed (?hope) that the Japanese would respond positively. The reason for his optimism, he added, was that the Japanese had promised to make all efforts to meet this deadline.

This latest round of talks are the continuation of many previous talks held between the two parties since early last year.

According to (?the Iranian) side, the total Japanese claim from Iran is about 60 million dollars and this amount should not be a barrier against the resumption of work on the project since already some 3.5 billion dollars have been spent on the plant, which is over 85 percent complete.

If the Japanese agree to resume their work, the Iranian delegation has agreed to pay 25 percent of the claims and another 25 percent when work plans have been drawn and the remaining 50 percent would be paid during the construction stage in one or two installments.

"If the Japanese give a positive answer by January 13, we will do more than we have promised to solve any problem," Ahmadi said. "However if the answer is negative, Iran does not intend to throw the project into the ocean and she would know how to clarify its stand towards the Japanese companies and in any case she will complete it (the project) through other means."

ABETTORS OF BANI-SADR ESCAPE TO BE TRIED

GF121752 Tehran IRNA in English 1727 GMT 12 Jan 83

[Text] Basht, northern Iran, Jan. 12 IRNA -- Within the next two weeks the Islamic revolutionary court of the military will begin the trial of persons accused of involvement in the escape of former President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr and the Mojahedin (MKO) terrorist leader Mas'ud Rajavi.

The prosecutor general of the Islamic revolutionary court of the military, Colonel Atabaki, in the interview with IRNA, did not mention how many have been arrested in connection with the case but said that their cases had been investigated and prepared for the trial.

Bani-Sadr and Rajavi fled to Paris in a stolen Air Force jet piloted by the former shah's personal pilot, Colonel Moezi, in late July 1981, weeks after the Majlis gave an overwhelming vote against Bani-Sadr's competency as the president of the Islamic Republic.

Colonel Atabaki also said that on the anniversary of the Islamic revolution, 11 February, a group of prisoners found guilty by the court will be freed according to the conditions announced by the Supreme Judicial Council.

PROSECUTOR NOTES COMMERCE MINISTRY 'VIOLATIONS'

LD121338 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Jan 83

[Excerpts] The special prosecutor for guilds affairs in Tehran in a press conference this morning announced numerous cases of violations in the Commerce Ministry in connection with the performance of its duties. He said: Hoarding and profiteering undermine the aims of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Suitable solutions should be found to prevent this. He called the incorrect distribution of goods the major cause of hoarding and profiteering.

He then announced numerous cases of sabotage committed by Commerce Ministry officials and expressed his gratitude to the head of the Supreme Court for his expression of support in connection with the prosecution of economic terrorists, hoarders, and profiteers. He said: If a Commerce Ministry official is found to be an offender, we expect the rest of them to punish, not support him.

In reply to a question as to why the measures taken by the prosecutor's office have not been effective in bringing price rises under control, he said: The basic root of this problem stems from the Commerce Ministry. We consider the Commerce Ministry guilty in this respect. We will fight profiteers and hoarders to the best of our ability.

EAST AZARBAYJAN COMMUNIQUE ON RATIONS, BRIBES

GF121450 Tabriz Domestic Service in Azeri 1530 GMT 11 Jan 83

[Text] The following communique was issued by the governor general's office of East Azarbayjan: We have noticed recently that some guild cooperatives, factories, offices, and cooperative societies and their headquarters, use the ration goods or make some of them available to people in order to receive money directly or indirectly from war refugees and reconstruction aid donors when distributing these goods. Also, some people demand illegal bribes from people [words indistinct]. We hereby announce that all such acts are illegal and will be dealt with as crimes and the people committing them will be handed over to the Islamic revolution courts.

KHOMAYNI'S KORDESTAN REPRESENTATIVE KILLED

GF121832 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 12 Jan 83

[Text] The fighters of the Rastgari group in Kordestan have killed Khomeyni's representative in Kordestan Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Hatef. According to our correspondent in Sanandaj, the members of the Rastgari group attacked and killed Mullah Mehdi Hatef in (Negel) village on Sanandaj-Marivan road. Following his assassination, his guards fled. The Rastgari fighters left a note on Hatef's chest, saying: "This is the revenge of the nation."

SARI REPORTS ARREST OF 67 'MINIGROUP' MEMBERS

GF121826 Sari Domestic Service in Persian 1430 GMT 12 Jan 83

[Text] According to an announcement by the public relations office of the central headquarters of the Mazandaran Islamic revolution committee, the Babol Islamic revolution committee has managed during the past few months to discover a number of communal houses and dens of decadence of the hypocrites; it arrested 67 members of the shattered hypocrites' minigroup who had participated in armed attacks against the regime of the Islamic Republic and the hezbollahi nation. A large quantity of Colts, G-3's, and ammunition were discovered. All those arrested were handed over to the Babol prosecutor's office after the preparation of files on them.

NVOI ON U.S. ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH CONTACT

TA111715 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1730 GMT 10 Jan 83

[Unattributed commentary: "America Is Striving To Establish Bridges of Communication With Iran Through Its Subservient Regimes"]

[Text] Dear compatriots: The issue of recognizing the friends and foes of revolutionary Iran in the international arena is one of the issues the Islamic leadership must confront realistically, in a revolutionary manner, and from the standpoint of the interests of the Iranian nation. Our people cannot accept the approach of some officials, particularly in the Foreign Affairs Ministry, who are constantly striving to project the foes of emancipated Iran as friends.

No one has any doubt regarding the hostility of world-devouring U.S. imperialism toward our nation's revolution and the Islamic Republic of Iran. The imam of the nation also is always emphasizing this point. Nevertheless, we are witnessing in practice that some authorities are striving to bring world-devouring America -- which was expelled from Iran under the blows of our nation's glorious revolution -- back into our country in another form and by means of its allies and mercenary regimes. In accordance with the U.S. plan, these gentlemen particularly are attempting to establish bridges of communication with Iran through such regimes as Pakistan and Turkey.

Some time ago, in an article in THE NEW YORK TIMES, Mr [?Kennedy) pointed out: We must never allow our bridges of communication with Iran to be destroyed, especially amid conditions in which direct contact is difficult. We must consolidate ties with Iran as much as possible by means of our friends in Western Europe, Japan, Pakistan, and Turkey. Please pay attention, the friends of the United States in Pakistan and Turkey. The implication that the United States wants to allegedly consolidate its ties with Iran through its friends in Pakistan and Turkey signifies only that America is aiming to restore its domination over Iran by means of these two subservient regimes.

The antipeople regimes of Pakistan and Turkey serve as a bridgehead in the hands of world-devouring America for launching an attack against Iran, for overthrowing the Islamic Republic's system in our country, and for installing a regime favored by America. Yet, some of the officials, despite numerous documents and evidence proving that the two aforementioned regimes are in the U.S. front, consider these two American regimes friends that allegedly defend revolutionary and anti-U.S. Iran in the arena of international diplomacy.

This is at a time when both the Turkish and Pakistani regimes have transformed the territory of their countries into a base for America -- an America that following the revolution has not refrained for one moment from plots and aggression against Iran.

Some time ago, a report spread throughout the world to the effect that America is constructing a new base in Turkey for use by the Rapid Deployment Forces. While establishing a new base in eastern Turkey, the United States is expanding two airfields in this area. These three airbases are to be used by bomber aircraft, but at the same time can be utilized by long-range bombers, heavy transport planes, and tanker fueling planes. According to German newspapers, the new base also can be used by NATO aircraft to reach Tehran, 850 km away, and Abadan, 1,100 km away.

Yes, the Turkish regime is providing America with bases on its territory, that have been transformed for launching an attack on the Persian Gulf, foremost of all on revolutionary Iran, so that America can station its Rapid Deployment Forces in them. Despite all this, despite the fact that the fugitive military and nonmilitary counter-revolutionary gangs are concentrated both in Turkey and Pakistan and receive the necessary preparations and training, despite the fact that the counterrevolutionaries and the foes of the Iranian revolution infiltrate into our country through Turkey and Pakistan, and despite the fact that these two regimes fall head over heels in their hostility toward our homeland, yet certain people in the Islamic leadership regard the Turkish and Pakistani regimes as the friends of the Iranian Government and strive to have cordial relations with these regimes.

In other words, they strive, as Mr (?Kennedy) has said, to aid America's endeavor to establish bridges of communication with Iran by means of Turkey and Pakistan. This is a danger that threatens the revolution and the existence of the Islamic government from within the government organization.

The Bani-Sadrs, the Qotbzadehs, and certain elements such as the Keshmiris have been dismissed from government organizations. However, this does not mean that our country's government organization has been cleansed from the filthy presence of such mercenary elements. President Hojrat ol-Eslam Khamene'i rightly alluded to this issue: The enemy skillfully and cunningly has entrenched and is entrenching itself in government organizations, not only to implement short-term plans at that but to implement long-term plans. It is these very penetrating elements who today are striving with all their might to create enemies for Iran, both within the country and abroad, and to project friends as enemies and foes as friends. Such penetrating elements who have infiltrated the complex of Iran's government organizations, the revolution's institutions, and even security organizations, and who are regarded with special favor by imperialism and its espionage services, must be identified as soon as possible and dismissed from these organizations before they are able, like the Bani-Sadrs, the Qotbzadehs, and the Keshmiris, to strike at the revolution.

CLANDESTINE CITES RIFT OVER MUSAVI SUPPORT

GF120902 (Clandestine) Sada-ye Iran Radio in Persian 1930 GMT 11 Jan 83

[Text] The Sada-ye Iran special correspondent in Tehran reports that within the party of the Islamic Republic, a deep rift has appeared.

Two opposing factions supporting and opposing Iranian Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi are confronting each other.

The opponents to Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, who are backed by a majority of the belligerent Tehran clergymen, are strongly and adamantly demanding the resignation of Khomeyni's prime minister.

IRNA DESCRIBES AFGHAN MUJAHIDIN OPERATIONS

LD122138 Tehran IRNA in English 1920 GMT 12 Jan 83

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 12, IRNA -- General Mohammad Nawaz in charge of logistical affairs of the Defence Ministry of Afghanistan, some time ago fled to Pakistan and announced his cooperation with the Afghan mujahideen positioned here.

PAKISTAN TIMES while reporting this said that the general also revealed crimes committed by the Red Army in Afghanistan.

In another incident informed sources in Zahedan, in Iran's Sistan va Baluchestan Province said that a mujahideen attack on a Soviet vehicle resulted in the death of 13 of the vehicle's occupants in the region of (?Tagab) situated on the Herat-Kabul highway. In this encounter one Afghan combatant was martyred and 3 others wounded.

Meanwhile, in another incident the Afghan Muslim mujahideen last week attacked a security post in the city of Herat, killing the official in charge along with his deputy and five other officers.

The mujahideen in an attack on a Soviet vehicle in the region of Herat Province killed the official of the political-ideological department along with his bodyguard and set fire to their personnel carrier.

BRIEFS

IMPORT-EXPORT FIGURES -- Tehran, Jan 9, IRNA -- During the period of Oct. 23-Nov. 22, 1982, some 1,409,129 tons of goods were imported through various ports of the country and some 1,540,425 tons of goods worth 96,596,928,000 rials were cleared from the ports, public relations office of the Customs Department announced today. According to the report there was an increase of 44 percent in terms of the weight of the imported goods as compared to the corresponding period of previous year and in terms of values of the goods. Among the country's customs office, those of Bandar 'Abbas, Bandar Imam Khomeyni and Bandar Bushehr were among the busiest, respectively. Meanwhile, in the said period some 15,006 tons of goods worth over 2,268,575,000 rials were exported. There were increases of 26 percent and 14 percent in terms of weight and value of goods exported. The exported goods included construction material, dates, dried fruits and fresh fruits, the report added. [Tehran IRNA in English 1614 GMT 9 Jan 83 GF]

WHOLESALE PRICE INDEX -- Tehran, Jan 9, IRNA -- Wholesale price index during the Iranian month of Azar (Nov 22-Dec 21) increased by 2.2 percent as compared to its preceding month, the Economic Statistics Department of the Central Bank announced today. The reason for the hike in the wholesale price index was increase in price of vegetables and fresh fruits excluding citrus fruits, cereals and some chemical and petrochemical items. However, price of rice and carpets decreased. The report further added that the wholesale price index of the month of Azar showed an increase of some 18 percent when compared to the corresponding period of previous year. [Tehran IRNA in English 1612 GMT 9 Jan 83 GF]